

GS 0492 F

REMARKS

A number of the claims have been amended for purposes of clarification. Additionally, the claims that had been withdrawn from consideration as directed to non-elected species have been amended to depend from an allowable claim.

In view of the indication of allowability of claim 2, that claim has been amended to incorporate subject matter from former claim 1, along with minor formal amendments. The following phrases from claim 1 as presented in the previous amendment have not been included in amended claim 2 because they are not believed to be necessary to patentably distinguish over the references relied upon by the examiner: "a pair of parallel power branches independently connected with a drive unit," "provided in each of the power branches and," and "between the power branches." Claim 1 has accordingly been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 2 through 13, 15 through 17, 19, 20, 23 through 28, 37 through 39, and 61 through 69 were said by the examiner to be directed to allowable subject matter and would be allowed if properly rewritten. The amendment of claim 2 to independent form and the dependence therefrom, either directly or indirectly, of all the remaining claims, including those claims that were withdrawn from consideration, is believed to place this application in allowable form.

Based upon the foregoing amendments and remarks, the claims as they now stand in the application are believed clearly to be in allowable form in that they patentably distinguish over the disclosures contained in the references that were cited and relied upon by the examiner, whether those references be considered in

GS 0492 F

the context of 35 U.S.C. § 102 or of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Consequently, reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested with a view toward the issuance of an early Notice of Allowance.

The examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney if this Amendment raises any questions, so that any such question can be quickly resolved in order that the present application can proceed toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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